

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten paragraph:

A stable optical element having a fine, uniform, and wide-ranging domain inversion structure in a ferroelectric crystal includes a plurality of domain inversions (101) formed on an MgO:LiNbO<sub>3</sub> substrate (100), and a groove (102) formed on the substrate surface between the domain inversions (101). The depth  $T'$  of substantially all of the domain inversions (101) satisfies the relation  $T' < T$  with respect to the substrate thickness  $T$ .